The wonderful Recompence of Faith:

OR,

Strange News

FROM

DURSLY in *GLOUCESTER*-ſhire;

BEING

A True and Perfect RELATION

How a GODLY FARMER,

Having his Barn full of Corn burnt down, and bearing that Loſs with an extraordinary Patience, it hath pleaſed Almighty God, by a Miraculous Providence, to reward him (this Harveſt) with a Crop of VVheat having generally Fifteen good full Ears on every Stalk.

Several of which wonderful Stalks and Ears are now in *London*, and may be ſeen at the Cock in *Thames* ſtreet, neer the Three Cranes; or at one *Adrian Nuth*'s at the ſigne of the Sun in Hog-lane.

And the truth of the matter will be witneſſed by all the Clothiers lodging in *Bloſſoms*-- commonly called *Bozoms* Inne, in *Lawrence*-lane neer *Cheapſide*.

London, Printed for *D. M.* 1675.

9

2x 277. 8x

1487/63

HARVARD COLLEGE
MAY 23 1910
LIBRARY

Gift of
Prof. G. L. Kittredge

BOUND. JUL 21 1910

The WONDERFUL RECOMPENCE OF FAITH and PATIENCE.

THe great duty of a Christian, and commonly the greatest difficulty that he meets with, is to resigne himself, and his Will, and all that he hath, to the will of God, so as to do or suffer without murmuring or repining, whatever providence shall require of, or impose upon him. As this blessed frame of heart is rarely attainable, so many precious promises we meet with in the Book of God, to persons that are possest of the same; and we have there not only the excellencie, but the necessity of it laid down in a plain affirmative proposition, that *Without Faith, it is impossible to please God:* which is illustrated to us by many glorious Examples of the Saints and Holy men of old, as *Noah*, *Abraham*, and others; but more especially in that eminent patern of Patience, holy *Job*, who when by successive misfortunes rouling in upon him like waves of the Sea, he had lost all that he had, could calmly sit down, and with his eye lifted up to Heaven, say, as it were triumphing over the malice of the evil one, *The Lord hath given, and the Lord hath taken*

taken away; *Bleſſed be the Name of the Lord.* Such meek and truly Chriſtian-tempers are very rarely to be met with in this peeviſh, ſtubborn, and ſinful Age we live in; yet the world is never without one Phœnix: when *Eliah* thought himſelf alone, there were ſeven thouſand in *Iſrael* that had not bowed their knees to *Baal*; and bleſſed be God, he has even now given us a great and extraordinary tryal, for our imitation; and of a miraculous Recompence conferred upon him for the ſame, for our ſuppor and encouragement. The true Account whereof is thus.

At a place called *Durſly* in *Glouceſterſhire*, there lives an honeſt ſubſtantial Farmer, one that had no other deſigne in his Religion, but to ſerve God, and ſave his own Soul; and therefore though his Zeal were as fervent as the higheſt Pretenders, yet it did not blaze and crackle ſo much, his aim being to approve himſelf to God, rather than to appear as ſome-body to men.

In the laſt Winter, about the month of *October*, it happened that by the careleſſneſs of one of his Servants going into the Stable in the Evening with a Candle, a parcel of Straw took fire, which in a moment, as 'twere, burnt down the ſaid Stable; and thence, growing more furious, ſeized upon a very large Barn that ſtood neer, being full of Corn, he having not had opportunity to thraſh any of it; it was preſently

diſcovered

diſcoveted, and all the help got that could be, but to no great purpoſe; for all the Art they could uſe, both by flinging water and otherwiſe, did but, as it were, rather encreaſe than quench the flames; ſo that at laſt concluding it impoſſible to maſter it, or ſave the Barn, they reſolved to imploy their Induſtry to ſave as much as they could of the Corn; and with much ado they breaking down a Wall, got away part of one Bay of Wheat, though much of it was burnt, and the reſt ſtrangely dried and ſcorcht with the violence of the fire: and as for all the reſt both of his Wheat, Oats, and other Grain, as likewiſe his Hay, and Winter-provender for his Cattle, the ſame was wholly conſumed and deſtroyed, and his Barn burnt down to the ground, to the loſs of about two hundred pounds.

After the fire had exerciſed its utmoſt fury, and the hurry and confuſion was a little over, ſo that people had time to reflect on what had happened, great was the ſorrow of the Neighbours for the diſaſter, which they really believ'd would be his ruine, and ſo ſeveral told him: but eſpecially his wife made a moſt ſad complaint, aggravating their preſent loſs, and the ſadneſs of their future condition; that they ſhould ſtarve and want bread; that all that ſhould either raiſe their Rent, or ſupport their Family, was deſtroyed, and they utterly undone. To all which, the good man ſaid little, but endeavoured to comfort her, and to look upon it as the act of God; and that to murmur againſt his Fatherly

correction

correction was both folly and impiety. *Who knows, Wife,* says he, *but God has laid this Calamity upon us to exercise our Faith, and our Patience, and other Graces? Has he not promised that all things shall work together for the best to those that serve him? Was God ever worse than his word? Didst thou ever know any that trusted in him forsaken at the last? His ways are unsearchable, and his Power infinite; but his Mercie is over all his Works: And doubt not but if we will work our mindes to such a temper of Resignation, as without murmuring or repining to bear the present loss, fear not, I say, wife, then, but God is all-sufficient, and he will provide for thee and I, and our little ones, and Family, by means we think not of.*

With these and many the like pious speeches, shewing plainly the greatness of his patience, and full assurance of his Faith, did this good man endeavour to comfort his wife; wherein he so far prevailed at last, that leaving her passionate Lamentations, she did likewise declare her chearful submission to the good providence of God.

And now, Christian Readers, prepare your attentions to observe God's wonderful making good that promise in his Holy word, that *He will never forsake those that trust in him*; for by a strange and miraculous way he hath been pleased to recompence this faithful Farmer more than Ten fold.

For having, as I said but now, made shift to

preeserv

preſerve a ſmall part of his Wheat, he got the ſame thraſht; and being in the ſeaſon for ſowing, and he wanting Seed, he would needs ſow this very Corn, though all his Neighbours diſſwaded him from it, alleaging that the fire had parcht it, that it would never grow, but would be juſt ſo much Corn flung away. However, he aſſuring them he neither had, nor knew how to get any other, and that he did not doubt but God would give a bleſſing to it, went on with his ſeaſon, and ſowed it; which came up very hopefully, and ſo grew on till it came to Ear, and then behold a miraculous return and recompence of this good mans Faith: for on every ſtalk there came forth divers Ears, on ſome 15 or 16, and thoſe that had leaſt, 12 or 13 Ears on a ſtalk, and ſo all-over the field, which was eleven Acres and a half; each of theſe Ears being as long and full, and containing as much Wheat in it as any Ear growing ſingle on a ſtalk is wont to do; ſo that it is rationally concluded, that this man has this year as much Wheat on this ſmall field of eleven Acres and a half, as ever was known to grow upon any hundred Acres of Land in *England*. And that which yet makes it more remarkable, is, that it is the brighteſt, fulleſt Corn that can be ſeen.

This Relation is a truth known and admired throughout *Glouceſterſhire*, and to many perſons in this City of *London*, divers *Glouceſterſhire*-Clothiers having brought up of the ſtalks of this Wheat with the ſeveral Ears on them, and preſented

sented them as a very great rarity to their Friends.

And particularly there are some of these Stalks and Ears now to be seen at the signe of the Cock and Bottle in *Thames street*, and at the three Cranes in *Thames-street*; and likewise at one *Adrian Nuths* at the Sun in *Hog lane* by *Moor-fields*. Or any person may be satisfied about the whole matter by any of the *Glocester-shire* Clothiers at *Blossoms* Inne neer *Cheapside*.

Some scoffing Atheist perhaps may deride it as a lye: for some are such Infidels that they will scarce credit their own senses, nor believe their Eyes or their Ears; but I hope the more sober finding it (as they will upon enquiry) an undoubted truth, will regard it with more consideration, and give glory to Almighty God, who by so remarkable an instance hath been pleased to declare his providence, and make known not onely that he is as to his Existence, but likewise that he is a Rewarder even in this life of all those that trust in him.

FINIS.